

Junior College for Torrance is Being Studied by Kersey

Possibility of establishing a junior college in Torrance was the subject of discussion at a most interesting conference last Friday at the office of Dr. Vlering Kersey, superintendent of the Los Angeles City Board of Education. Representing Torrance were: Mayor William H. Tolson, Chamber of Commerce Secretary L. J. Gilmeister, and Grover C. Whyte, editor-publisher of The Herald.

While not present at the conference, Thomas H. Elson, principal of Torrance high school, has been active in furthering the movement, and has been designated by Dr. Kersey as spokesman for the Board of Education in the junior college matter.

While reluctant to make any definite commitment on the matter at this time, Kersey stated that a study of the junior college situation being made in this district and that the results of preliminary investigation have been most encouraging. It is expected that more definite information will be available after the beginning of the second semester, Kersey stated.

Center of This Area

Among the points stressed by the Torrance committee is that this community is the geographical center of the area to be served by the contemplated junior college, and is rapidly becoming so recognized by both the state and the county as the logical location for their activities.

In locating the junior college, the employment and insurance division for the entire harbor area in Torrance and more recently the opening of the motor license office by the Motor Vehicle Department, state officials have gone on record as considering Torrance the center of activities in this area.

Several years ago the county selected Torrance for the headquarters of its health and sanitation work by erecting the Health Center and later added the Welfare Department division office in the same building.

Elson Making Survey

The need of junior college facilities here is generally recognized, as the Compton Junior College and Long Beach Junior College are not only badly overcrowded but inefficient to teach. If a decision is made to establish a junior college in Torrance, it is probable that the Compton plan of locating it on the high campus will be followed, although the junior college will be operated as a separate unit from the high school. Instructors in junior colleges are required to have master's degrees.

Principal Elson declined to amplify Dr. Kersey's statement, but admitted that he was conducting an extensive survey of the local field for the purpose of determining the need and possibilities of establishing a junior college here. It is believed that Elson's recommendations will be very influential as Dr. Kersey spoke very highly of Elson's ability in discussing the subject with the Torrance committee.

S. W. Advertising Group to Meet Here Tomorrow

Reports from three sub-committees are due to be acted upon during a meeting here tomorrow night of the special group investigating possibility of raising a large advertising fund to promote new industries to relocate for Torrance and other cities in the southwestern part of the county.

The reports are to be devoted to increased attendance at the advertising group's sessions, selection of a distinctive name for the organization, fostered by Oscar L. Wilcox, and a statement of its program and policies.

Representative citizens from Inglewood, Hawthorne, Manhattan, Hermosa, Redondo Beach, Palms, Palmdale, Hollywood, Palmdale, Palms Verdes and Torrance are expected to attend the session, which will be held in the Chamber of Commerce.

MAY ASK COUNTY VOTE TO DIVORCE DANCING, DRINKING

A county-wide vote on the question of whether public dancing shall be permitted to continue on the same premises where alcoholic beverages are sold probably will be taken at the next general election. It was indicated this week at the Hall of Records.

The county public welfare commission, which has been asked by temperance groups to refer to issue licenses in these places, made the recommendation to the supervisors. Law observance groups have appeared before the supervisors on several occasions to ask that liquor sales be divorced from dancing, but each time the supervisors have declined to take the matter.

Unable to get together with those opposing any change in the present set-up, the public welfare commissioners decided the better way would be to have the supervisors place the proposal on the ballot at the next general election.

TORRANCE MORE THRU HIGHWAYS

Thousand Men Due to Work On Reservoir

Full construction crews are due to be placed on the Palos Verdes reservoir project with the Metropolitan Water District within a week or 10 days, according to a "West" town construction engineer for the W. E. Hall company, builders of the great storage basin.

Only a few men are being employed on the site, located near the intersection of Narbonne avenue and Palos Verdes Drive, at the present time. These are operating heavy grading machinery.

But within a few weeks, about 1,000 men will be toiling there, including contractors' field and office employees and members of the District's staff. No more applications for jobs are being taken at the present time, according to information given several local men this week by Col. N. F. Jamieson of this city, personnel director for the M.W.D.

Complete by Dec. 1

Detailed maps of the project, disclosed for the first time this week by the contractors, show the reservoir, capable of holding 90-day supply of water, will be egg-shaped in a basin in the hills which will be shut off with compacted earthfill embankments. The entire reservoir will be lined with reinforced granite.

A 75-foot earth and cement retaining wall will be constructed at the lower end and this will be visible from points near the West basin in San Pedro. The man-made lake will be approximately one-half mile long and one-quarter mile wide, with will be lined with special culverts, which will keep debris from the surrounding hills from entering.

The contract calls for completion of the \$55,950 project by Dec. 1. M. Hjalmerstrom is superintendent for the Hall company and N. F. Crossley is the resident engineer for the Metropolitan Water District. First work on the reservoir began Jan. 11.



HEAD JUNIOR FRATERNAL ORDER . . . The three top officers of the Torrance Chapter, Order of De Molay, are shown here with their advisor, Edmund Day, member of the Torrance Masonic club. They are, left to right: Harry M. Lewis, junior counselor; Frank A. Andersen, master counselor; Day, and Hans Sommer, senior counselor.

In the presence of a large gathering of parents and friends, the first officers of the local De Molay Order were installed last Saturday night at the Masonic temple by Charles E. Wright, active member of the Grand Council of Southern California, and his De Molay team from Los Angeles.

Following the impressive ceremonies, in which the local De Molay officers and the visiting team appeared in their colorful robes of office for the first time, there was dancing and a reception.

The Torrance chapter has a membership of about 30 local, Lomita and Gardena boys. Plans

are being made for several social functions in the near future. In addition to the three ranking officers pictured above, the chapter is governed by: Norman W. Hudson and Robert H. Tolson, senior and junior deacons; Harold E. Massie and Robert A. Owens, senior and junior stewards; Richard P. Miller, chaplain; Leonard Babcock, treasurer; Kenneth A. Perkin, sentinel; William E. Buckley, standard bearer; Marvin Lee, almoner; Hugh C. Allen, marshal; Richard E. Beecher, orator; and Harold E. Kerber, Ralph L. Gilbert, Robert R. Isaacs, Jack C. Thomas, William L. Ritchie, Addison F. Smith and Edgar L. McDonald, preceptors.

JANUARY BUILDING TOTALS \$115,960

Presaging another big year of home, business, factory and oil development for Torrance, 47 building permits for the first month of 1939 amounted to \$115,960, according to records on file at the city engineer's office this week. Altogether the total for January, 1938 was \$1,811,950, \$1,772,000 of that amount was for two of the past year's major projects—General Petroleum expansion and the new KNX-CBS transmitter station.

Home-building took a jump here last month when 12 new residences, costing in excess of \$29,850, were started. There were 14 oil derricks erected at a cost of \$76,000 and 13 oil tanks, amounting to an investment of \$78,150, were installed. Other January construction included: seven private garages, \$1,200; one industrial building \$1,500; restaurant building \$200; alterations and repairs to residences, \$550; alterations and repairs to non-residences, \$500; and one demolition job, \$1,000.

Among the permits issued during the past week were eight for new oil derricks, eight for oil tanks and one for repairs to a derrick in South Torrance field. Other permits were granted:

Homes Being Erected
Stella Freigh of 1222 Cota, a five-room stucco residence at 150.

1218 Cota, \$5,000, and for a four-room stucco apartment and three-car garage at 1220 Cota, \$2,500; Ivan E. and Stella G. Howard of 2437 239th for a five-room frame residence at 2445 239th, \$2,000; A. L. Fish of 1452 Engracia for a seven-room frame stucco residence and double garage at 1408 Engracia, \$4,750; Charles V. Reifel of 1443 Carson for a frame house, 10 by 18 feet, at 2023 Cabrillo, \$550; R. Beck of Keystone for a five-room frame residence and double garage at 912 Beech, \$2,200, and Homer Rogers of 4411 Torrance boulevard for a five-room frame residence and double garage at 1226 Date, \$2,350.

Gerald L. Alter for a four-room frame residence and garage at 2417 Sonoma, \$2,500; Ivan E. and Stella G. Howard of 2437 239th for a five-room frame residence at 2445 239th, \$2,000; A. L. Fish of 1452 Engracia for a seven-room frame stucco residence and double garage at 1408 Engracia, \$4,750; Charles V. Reifel of 1443 Carson for a frame house, 10 by 18 feet, at 2023 Cabrillo, \$550; R. Beck of Keystone for a five-room frame residence and double garage at 912 Beech, \$2,200, and Homer Rogers of 4411 Torrance boulevard for a five-room frame residence and double garage at 1226 Date, \$2,350.

URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO EXTEND CABRILLO AVENUE

In a determined effort to "put Torrance on the highway map" and thus foster its growth, a large group of civic leaders gathered at the city hall yesterday afternoon to urge the city council to launch a major highway program, including:

1. Extension and improvement of Crenshaw boulevard (Central Ave.) from 160th street to connect with the roadway at Redondo Beach boulevard;
2. Immediate purchase of the right-of-way over the Kettler Estate property to connect Cabrillo avenue with Eshelman and thus provide a direct route from the western end of Torrance directly thru the business district to U. S. Highway 101;
3. Re-surfacing of Torrance boulevard from curb to curb, eliminating the present center strip between El Prado and Date street; and
4. Re-surfacing of Hawthorne boulevard thru Walteria and up the hill to the Palos Verdes Estates.

The group of civic leaders was called together to express its views on Mayor William H. Tolson's program of civic improvements as outlined in previous issues of The Herald.

Option is Available

While it was generally agreed that the recreational features of the Mayor's program including buildings at the municipal park and Walteria, tennis courts, pistol range, etc., should not be included in any proposed bond issue at this time, those in attendance went far beyond Mayor Tolson's program in recommending highway development. They added the extension and improvement of Crenshaw boulevard and the re-surfacing of Hawthorne boulevard at Walteria.

Mayor Tolson explained that he had met with the four principal heirs of the Kettler Estate and they had consented to give the city a one-year's option to purchase the necessary right-of-way thru their property at \$1,500 per acre to extend Cabrillo avenue from Sepulveda boulevard to connect with Eshelman avenue in Lomita. Approximately two and one-third acres would be required according to Acting City Engineer Leonard Young. No consideration was mentioned for the option, but it was assumed that a nominal deposit would be paid to make the option binding.

Remove Tracks on Cabrillo

The group of citizens went on recommending that the city authorize such an option at once, so that when the proposition of improvement and extending Cabrillo avenue is submitted at the proposed bond election there would be no question concerning the city's ability to make Cabrillo a thru boulevard from Western avenue to U. S. Highway 101. The land would be paid for out of the proceeds of the bonds, according to the plan outlined.

In discussing the proposal submitted by the Pacific Electric railway for re-laying of its tracks on Cabrillo avenue with trolley rails to permit the paving of the street from curb to curb, it was suggested that, instead of paying for new rails, the city make the railway company a flat offer for its right-of-way on Cabrillo and take up the tracks entirely. The railway company (Continued on Page 8-A)

Walteria Auto Fire First 1939 Blaze

An automobile fire in Walteria early Tuesday morning broke the record for auto fires in Torrance since the first of the year. The Walteria volunteer department extinguished the blazing car belonging to H. S. Earnest of Hermosa Beach.

A short-circuit on the wiring caused the blaze which damaged the front of the car and the two front tires. The loss was estimated at \$50. The fire occurred west of Hawthorne boulevard on Highway 101.

Morals Case to Get Jury Trial Here on Monday

While the parents of the three local little girls before whom the Mayor's program is accused of indecent exposure and lewd vagrancy Jan. 23, watched the proceedings, the 45-year-old Hollywood film laboratory worker, charged with the offense, Robert Lessing Monday morning.

At the start of the hearing he was represented by counsel, Attorney John Shidler appearing in his own defense. He requested a continuance of the arraignment, but withdrew from the case. Then Hagerstrom pleaded not guilty to charges of molesting the children and vagrancy. He asked for a jury trial and when this was set for several days on \$1,000 bond deposited by the National Surety company, an affiliate of the Automobile Club of Southern California. When the city learned of the nature of the charges against him and that a car was not involved in the case, it exonerated its bail and returned Hagerstrom to jail.

Want Maximum Penalty

A few minutes after he had been returned to the cells, the Hollywood man was confronted with another charge—that of driving while intoxicated. He appeared dazed when confronted with this third count and was unable for several minutes to decide how to plead to the latest accusation.

Finally he mumbled to Judge Leasing that he would plead not guilty and stand trial on all three charges. Hagerstrom was then once more led back to jail.

He obtained a \$1,000 bail bond later and was released from jail pending the jury trial next Monday morning. Parents of the children, whose ages are eight, ten and 10 years, are determined that Hagerstrom will pay the maximum penalty—a year in jail—for his misdemeanors.

Leasing had a close contact with the case and, although they regret that their youngsters will have to testify regarding the charges, the youngsters are willing to bring them into court for the trial.

Attorney Shidler, after withdrawal (Continued on Page 2-A)

Little Theatre Meeting Monday

Representatives of all local civic, fraternal and service organizations will meet next Monday night, Feb. 6, at 8 o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce to consider creation of a Torrance Community Players' group.

If enough interest is shown, a program designed to develop dramatic talent and present stage productions here will be outlined. City Councilman Tom McGuire will be in charge of the meeting. Those who are expected to urge the establishment of the community theatre project are principal Thomas Elson of the high school, Dean Sears, Kiwanis Club president; John Shidler of the Coordinating Council, and others.

Anyone interested in this movement will be welcome at the Monday evening session.

Riviera School Status Unchanged

Residents of the Hollywood Riviera community in Torrance who recently asked the board of supervisors to take their area from the Los Angeles city elementary district and place it in the Palos Verdes elementary district, Feb. 6, at 10 a. m., he was returned to jail.

Hagerstrom had been at liberty for several days on \$1,000 bond deposited by the National Surety company, an affiliate of the Automobile Club of Southern California. When the city learned of the nature of the charges against him and that a car was not involved in the case, it exonerated its bail and returned Hagerstrom to jail.

Assessed valuation of the Hollywood Riviera district is given as \$99,110, and would have increased the total assessed valuation of the smaller Palos Verdes district considerably. Officials of both the Los Angeles and Palos Verdes districts were reported to be agreeable to the change and C. Trillingham, assistant superintendent of schools, Palos Verdes district, was reported to be agreeable to the change.

Clifford Reid and other residents of the district asked permission to withdraw their petitions Monday but the supervisors, acting on advice of the county counsel's office, voted to deny the petition, since it had been placed before them in formal petitions of the required number of heads of families.

100 At Dinner Last Night by Police, Firemen

Exactly 100 city employees and their wives attended the first dinner festivities held by the police and fire departments with their ladies present last night at Fire Station No. 1. In addition to those two units, city council members and heads of all departments were guests at the gala function which centered around a fried chicken dinner.

Wives of three firemen—Mrs. Lawrence Summers, Mrs. Charles McConville and Mrs. Russell Parry—and Mrs. C. Tolson prepared the elaborate menu. All members of the council were present except Mr. and Mrs. George V. Powell, who were detained at home.

"Skeet" Summers was master-of-ceremonies and it was unanimously agreed that more inter-departmental functions should be held in the future.

Saturday, Feb. 18 Date Does Double Duty . . . Do You Know Why?

Quiz! What important events will take place on Saturday, Feb. 18?

To San Franciscans this date marks the opening of the Golden Gate International Exposition at Treasure Island; But . . .

To Torrance folks, this date means a rollicking good time at the PIF George Washington Charity Ball for the benefit of the Torrance Memorial Hospital.

This party—which is informal (despite its designation as a ball)—is traditionally the outstanding social event of this district and the plans this year call for even a better dance than previously.

Fred Graaf's augmented 12-piece orchestra has been engaged to furnish the music. This is the orchestra that won many favorable comments a few years ago when they played for dances here. Dancing begins at 8 p. m. at the Torrance Civic Auditorium.

But to make things doubly interesting to those who purchase

Local Field Leads State Oil Activity

Attracted by the easy drilling, nearly a score of new operators are exploring the "hot spot" of the South Torrance oil field in the vicinity of 237th and Eshelman—and this week that area revealed the activity that a year ago was booming property west of Narbonne avenue.

Several wells have been completed in the new eastern development within the past week or 10 days to make the district the most active oil production center in the state. In the extreme west side Standard has reported that its Marble No. 1-2 is holding up with 95 barrels. This well was completed in a spot that was thought about finished as a drill location.

Considerably more drilling can now be anticipated with the extension of this end of the South Torrance field a quarter of a mile to the west. The first discovery by Kovel Oil's deep hole No. 1, located at 240th and Walnut. Several new operators have entered the local field during the past week, including D. W. Elliott who subsided 20 acres of Shell Oil's Kettle lease.

More Locations are being drilled. Boiling Oil is completing its Power No. 1, located directly east of Maldum Petroleum's No. 3 which was completed on 237th for 70 barrels. Another well due for completion is Ray Wilson's No. 2, situated a few hundred feet north of the Maldum well. Operators are elated because the 237th street development is accomplished with very little coring. An electric logging device is used almost exclusively, and is coupled with electric drilling, makes the cost of completing a well considerably less than in other fields.

Locations for four more wells were staked in the field here this week. C.G.M.O. is rigging a derrick for its Torrance No. 41, Pacific Western has staked its Marble Fee No. 12, J. E. Petri (Continued on Page 2-A)

Paralysis Fund Check-In Ashed by Earl Conner

Postmaster Earl Conner is trying to complete all details of the Infantile Paralysis fund raising campaign that ended Monday but he has yet to hear from a number of volunteers who assisted in the sale of the "Fight Now" buttons.

He urgently requested those having contributions to turn them into his office, either bank or to City Judge Robert, Lessing this week.

The student dance last Friday night raised about \$75 which will be turned over to Conner tomorrow or Saturday as a major portion of the local fund. The button sale and the student dance, opened to the public for the first time on Saturday as the city's sole assistance to the national campaign for the eradication of infantile paralysis.

Masons to Dine Here Friday Night

Torrance Lodge No. 447, F. & A. M., will hold their 6:30 o'clock dinner Friday evening, Feb. 3, for all members and sojourning Masons in this city.

Next Sunday, Jess Reddington, master of the local lodge, and ten other members will represent Torrance at the Masonic breakfast at the Los Angeles Biltmore hotel. More than 2,000 Masons are expected to attend with the Grand Master and other Grand officers.

HOUSE BURGLARIZED

Sometime between 7:30 and 8 o'clock last Sunday evening, Virginia Brown's home at 1738 Cabrillo avenue was entered and an alligator purse, containing her driver's license, keys, \$4 in cash, was stolen, she reported to police. Nothing else was molested.

ATTEND CONVENTION

Glenn N. Jain, assistant city engineer, and Oscar D. Butterfield, city electrical inspector, attended the state electrical inspectors' convention at San Diego yesterday.